

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 02215 181421Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /014 W
-----181445 094999 /46

R 181315Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6225
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2215

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF RSO GEOGRAPHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

REF: (A) MOGADISCIO 0268, (B) NAIROBI 1790 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 032811

AS REQUESTED PARA THREE REF (A) RSO NAIROBI COMMENTS FOLLOW:

A. IN RSO OPINION, MOGADISCIO HAS VALID POINT REGARDING
STRETCHING SECURITY RESOURCES TOO THIN ON THE EAST COAST OF
AFRICA. NAIROBI CURRENTLY HANDLING EIGHT POSTS WITH A TOTAL
OF SEVENTEEN SEPARATE FACILITIES IN ADDITION TO NEW OFFICE
BUILDINGS IN DAR ES SALAAM AND NAIROBI.

B. CONSIDER ALMOST ENTIRE EASTERN SIDE OF AFRICA
POTENTIALLY VOLATILE AND DEPT. WILL RECALL RSO ASSESSMENT IN
RESPONSE TO COM PROTECTION QUESTIONNAIRE. OUR ESTIMATE WAS
THAT IN ANY THREAT TO COM'S IN THIS REGION, POSTS COULD EXPECT
LITTLE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS AND IM-
MEDIATE PROTECTION WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY RSOS
PENDING ARRIVAL PROTECTION TEAM. THIS PRESUMABLY WOULD
ALSO BE THE CASE IN EASTERN AFRICA AREAS OUTSIDE NAIROBI
REGION. WHILE THIS NOT IMMEDIATELY GERMANE TO
MOGADISCIO COVERAGE IT POSSIBLY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN
DECIDING TOTAL RESOURCES TO BE MAINTAINED THIS AREA.
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C. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WOULD APPEAR TO BE TRAVEL RE-
STRICTIONS WHICH WOULD HAMPER RSO NAIROBI'S ABILITY TO
RESPOND TO SUDDEN REQUESTS FROM MOGADISCIO. SOMALI VISA
NORMALLY TAKES A WEEK TO PROCURE. FLIGHTS AVAILABLE ARE
ONCE WEEKLY (THURSDAY) DIRECT FROM NAIROBI AND ONCE WEEKLY
(TUESDAY) VIA ADDIS ABABA WITH STOPOVER IN ADDIS. THIS
COUPLED WITH OBSERVANCE OF THURSDAY/FRIDAY WEEKEND

MOGADISCIO AUTOMATICALLY MEANS WEEK MINIMUM FOR ANY VISIT
REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT OF WOEEK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. AP-
PRECiate THAT TRANSPORTATION SITUATION MAY BE NO BETTER
FOR OTHER RSOS BUT CONCEIVABLY OTHER MAY HAVE MORE TIME.

D. IN REF (B) RSO NAIROBI INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOGADISCIO PROVIDED NAIROBI
CONTINUED TO BE FULLY STAFFED WITH TWO RSOS. THIS
RESPONSE BASED ON BELIEF THAT AS THE ONLY TWO-RSO OFFICE
IN EASTERN AFRICA WE ENJOYED GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO RE-
SPOND THAN OTHERS.

E. RSO STILL AGREEABLE TO ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MOGADISCIO IF DEPT. AND POST SO DESIRE AND WILL ENDEAVOR
GIVE BEST COVERAGE POSSIBLE BUT AGREES THAT LIMITATIONS
CITED ABOVE SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN
DECISION.

MARSHALL

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